

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A side impact protective apparatus is incorporated into a side wall of a motor vehicle, such as a motor vehicle door, and includes a pressure gas source as well as a gas bag inflatable by the latter. The folded together, extended gas bag is arranged along the upper edge of the side wall behind an internal covering in the resting state. The gas bag exits upward upon unfolding in the region of the railing of the side wall through a slot formed between the upper edge of the covering and the side wall and extends upward along the interior of a side window as impact protection for the head region of the motor vehicle occupant. The covering is fastened on the side wall at a distance to both long-sided ends of the gas bag, and a defined weakening is present on the front face of the covering approximately at the height of the pivotal upper edge region. As a result, a great stability of the covering is attained, and a defined exit is assured over a large temperature range when the gas bag unfolds. Thus, when viewed from the side, an ideal connection line through the two spaced fastenings forms a swiveling axis for the pivotal upper edge region of the covering.